the legal aid programme in Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana, during the period from 1991—93 is as under:—

Sl. No.	Name of the State Legal Aid and Advice Board	Number of persons benefitted
1.	Punjab	8,681
2.	Madhya Pradesh	87,479
3.	Delhi	4,916
4.	Haryana	1,552

Free Legal Aid in Saurashtra region of Gujarat

2044. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount earmarked by Govern-ment for free legal aid to the poor and economically weaker sections of society during each, of last three years and its utilisation, particularly in Rajkot, Bhavnagar, Junagadh, Amreli, Jamnagar, Surefldra Nagar and Kutch districts of Saurashtra region;

(b) the reasons for not utilising these funds in some districts of Gujarat; and

(c) the effective measures taken/proposed to be taken by the central Government to make available free legal aid to the poor and weaker sections of society in Saurashtra region of Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. : (a) The sanctioned Budget Grant under the sub-head 'Grant-in-aid' was Rs. 47 lakhs in 1990-91 and Rs. 40 lakhs each for 1991-92 and 1992-93 respectively. The grants released to the Gujarat State Legal Aid and Advice Board etc. during the last three years are as under :

Financial Year	Grant released
	(Rs.)
1990-91	1,00,000
1991-92	2,10,262
1992-93	1,75,136

The State Legal Aid and Advice Board distributes the grant amongst the District Legal Aid Committees on the basis of the Legal Aid Progranfliies to be undertaken by them. Special grant is given by Cofltmi-"ttee for Implementing Legal Aid Schemes (CILAS) on demand and during the years in question CILAS has not rejected any proposal for grant coming from Saurashtra region

(b) The reasons for non-utilisation of the funds by a State Government may differ for a variety of reasons depending upon law and order, floods/drought and attitude of the professionals etc.

(c) Various Legal Aid Programmes, such as promotion of Legal Literacy, holding of Legal Aid Camps/Lok Adalats, and Training of Para-Legal, etc. .are being organised to make available Free legal aid to the poor and weaken sections of society in different parts of the country including Saurashtra region of Gujarat.

Restrictions on joining legal profession.

2045. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA :
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:
SHRI SARADA MOHANTY :
SHRI G. G. SWELL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that these law graduates who have since retired from service are debarred to join legal profession when they have crossed over a certain age limit ;

(b) if so, the purpose behind this decision and the date of implementation of the decision ;

(c) whether such a decision has evoked sharp reaction ; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS : (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) and (b) The Bar Council of India has framed a rule prohibiting law gradrates above the age of, 45 years from entering the legal profession. The said role came into force on 25-9-1993. It was claimed that the said rule was frame in public interest.

(c) and (d). Certain representations have been received against the said rule. Writ petitions challenging the said rule are also pending in some High Courts.

Cases pending in Madras High Court

2046. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) what is the number of cases pending at present before the Madras High Court for disposal ;

(b) how many of them are ten, five and three years old category-wise ;

(c). how many writ petitions are presently pending before the Court for disposal ;

(d) how many, vacancies are there in the 'Madras High Court;

(e) the vacancies that have been filled during the last three years alongwith the *date* of occuraace of each vncancy as also date of filling ; and

(f) what steps are being taken to dispose off old cases and to fill up the vacancies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS, (SHRI H. R. BHARDSWAJ) : (a) to (c) The Registry of Madras High Court has indicated that 3,-01,191 cases were pending as on 30-6-1993. Of them, 66,786 were writ petitions. The break-up of these cases is as follows :

Category	Over 10 years	Over 5 years	Over 3 years
Civil . .	4,488	56,133	1,05,793
Criminal .	9	6,393	15,776

(d) As on 1-12-1993, there were 3 Vacancies of Permanent Judges in the Mad-ras'High Court.

(e) Seven vacancies of Judges, including those of Chief Justice, have been filled up in the Madras High Court during the last three years. The dates on which vacancies arose arid were filled up are as under:—

Sl. No.	Date on which vacancies arose	Date on which vacancies were filled up
1	25-01-1990	27-12-1990
2	06-06-1990	27-12-1990
3	28-04-1991	15-06-1992
4	28-05-1991	03-11-1992
5	01-07-1991	03-11-1992
6	18-11-1991	03-11-1992
7	15-06-1992	01-07-1993

(f) The Madras High Court has taken a number of steps to expedite the disposal of cases, such as grouping of cases involving common question of law and posting of the same before the specialised bench. It has been decided to create 4 new posts of Permanent Judges in the High Court of Madras to expedite the disposal of cases. The process of consultation among the concerned constitutionsl authorities for filling up the existing vacancies is going on.

विभिन्न उच्च न्यायालयों में न्यायाधीशों के पदों पर रिक्तियां

2047. **श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश के विभिन्न उच्च न्यायलयों में 31 अक्तूबर, 1993 की स्थिति के अनुसार न्यायधीशों की स्वीकृति संख्या कितनी है तथा इस समय रिक्त पड़े पदों की संख्या कितनी है, और

(ख) ये पद कब से रिक्त पड़े हैं तथा इन पदों को न भरे जाने के क्या कारण है ?

विधि, न्याय और कंपनी कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री हंसराज भारद्वाज) : (क) 31 अक्तूबर, 1993 को देश के विभिन्न उच्च न्यायालयों में न्यायाधीशों के मंजूर पदों की संख्या और 1.12.1993 को रिक्त पद दर्शित करने वाला विवरण संलग्न है (नीचे देखिये)।